

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FHGERLACH:LB

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

NEA:MESTERNER

AF/E:GSCOTT

AID/NE/NENA:CUPHAUS (INFO)

S/S - PSBRIDGES

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R 012207Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANA

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, YE, US

SUBJECT: US-YAR RELATIONS

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 229207, (B) SANA 2991

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HABIB SEPTEMBER 22, YAR AMBASSADOR AL-MUTAWAKKIL BROUGHT UP EPMG SEIZURE OF YEMENI VESSELS AND SAID YARG WOULD LIKE USG TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO GET ETHIOPIANS TO CEASE SUCH ACTIVITY AND RETURN BOATS AND PERSONS THEY NOW HOLD. MR. HABIB SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. HE COMMENTED THAT, IN ANY CASE, CONFUSED EPMG SITUATION MADE IT DIFFICULT TO INFLUENCE ETHIOPIAN LEADERS IN THIS REGARD. DESK OFFICER LATER BRIEFED
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AMBASSADOR ON SUBSTANCE OF STATE 229207.

2 IN OTHER MATTERS, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CURRENT SAUDI-FUNDED FMS AND MAP TRAINING PROGRAMS, BUT REGRETTED THE GREAT DELAY IN GETTING THEM IMPLEMENTED. (YARG EMBOFF LATER EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR WAS REFERRING TO DELAYS UNTIL 1976 IN GETTING SAUDIS TO ACT.) AMBASSADOR ALSO MADE PLEA THAT YAR BE MADE ELIGIBLE FOR P.L.480 TITLE ONE PROGRAM. MR. HABIB SAID HE COULD PROMISE NOTHING

BUT WOULD LOOK INTO THAT MATTER ALSO. AFTER CHECKING STATUS, DESK OFFICER LATER CALLED YAR EMBASSY TO SAY DECISION RE TITLE ONE HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST YARG REQUEST ON GROUNDS THERE IS NO CONVINCING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ARGUMENT FOR PROGRAM. UNTIL THAT SITUATION CHANGED, THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF CHANGE IN USG POSITION.

3. REGARDING RECENT YAR GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES (REF B), AMBASSADOR STRESSED THEY HAD "NOTHING TO DO WITH FOREIGN POLICY." RE PDRY, AMBASSADOR OPINED REGIME THERE WAS IN A "MANEUVERING" STAGE, MERELY SEEKING A "LAISSEZ PASSER" TO RESPECTABILITY THROUGHOUT PENINSULA. IN LONG RUN, HOWEVER, IT REMAINED "DANGEROUS." HE ADDED THAT YARG HAD STATED ITS CONCERN TO SAG, BUT, SINCE SANA CONTINUALLY TALKED OF UNITY WITH SOUTH, IT WAS HARDLY IN POSITION TO FAULT SAUDI ARABIA'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: POINTS RAISED BY AMBASSADOR (EXCEPT ONE ON ETHIOPIA, WHICH HE LATER EXPLAINED FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ HAD ASKED HIM TO RAISE AT LAST MINUTE) ADDED UP TO POLITE TALK AND RITUALISTIC QUEST FOR GREATER US AID TO YAR. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY FOLLOW-UP BEYOND THAT ALREADY UNDERTAKEN.

5. RE ETHIOPIA, SANA 3357 JUST RECEIVED. IT APPEARS DCM'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTER CAME AFTER AL-ASNAJ CALLED YAR EMBASSY WASHINGTON. SINCE YARG NOW HAS OUR RESPONSE TO ITS RECENT REQUEST FOR DELAY IN U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ETHIOPIA, WE DO NOT PLAN TO RESPOND TO YEMENI AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS UNLESS HE SHOULD PURSUE

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SUBJECT. AS NOTED IN STATE 229207, WE HOPE INCIDENTS WERE ISOLATED AND PASSING ONES. WE PREFER TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN A TERRITORIAL WATER DISPUTE IN WHICH WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN BECOMING INVOLVED. KISSINGER

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